

*Constitution and By-Laws*  
of the  
*Sigma Tau Fraternity*

*Founded February 22, 1904*



*1967 Conclave Edition*

# SIGMA TAU FRATERNITY

*National Honor Society for Engineers*

*Founded February 22, 1904*



*His life was gentle; and the elements  
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,  
And say to all the world, "This is a man!"*

—SHAKESPEARE.

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# National Council

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\* \* \*

## National Headquarters

*Executive Assistant  
to the Secretary-Treasurer*.....MRS. ANN TAGGART  
301 Tulsa Building  
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# Constitution of the Sigma Tau Fraternity

*As Amended by the National Conclave at  
Lawrence, Kansas, on March 6-8, 1967*

## PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, The principles of fraternity among men are believed by us to be beneficial, both in college days and afterward; and

WHEREAS, We believe that a fraternity with the broad principles of scholarship, practicality, and sociability would be helpful to engineers;

THEREFORE, We, the members, associate ourselves together to maintain an honorary fraternity confined to students of engineering — the purpose of which shall be to recognize scholarship and professional attainment\*, subject to requirements hereinafter set forth — and adopt the following Constitution:

\* "Obviously we cannot prejudice professional attainment, as that must be judged long after the end of the college career. Therefore, we must attempt to set up criteria which are related to promise of professional attainment. To that end we believe we should emphasize the following: Leadership, personality, adaptability, resourcefulness, mental flexibility, breadth of vision, maturity of judgment, creative ability, and character. We propose that these criteria be applied critically to those who meet the scholarship requirement, and that only those who are believed to be distinctly superior with respect to promise of professional attainment be admitted to the fraternity."  
— Adoption of the 1947 National Council Conference.

## ARTICLE I

### Name and Structure

**Section 1.** The name of the fraternity shall be "**Sigma Tau**".

**Section 2.** The fraternity shall be a college honor society.

**Section 3.** The fraternity shall be a voluntary unincorporated organization having no stockholders or shareholders; and no part

of the receipts of the fraternity shall inure to the benefit of any private individual or member, except for salaries (or the return of expenses) for services performed.

**Section 4.** The calendar year shall be the fiscal year of the fraternity.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Insignia**

**Section 1.** The colors of the fraternity shall be Yale blue and white.

**Section 2.** The flower of the fraternity shall be the white carnation.

**Section 3.** The other insignia of the fraternity shall be described in the By-Laws and the Ritual.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Chapters**

**Section 1.** The fraternity shall be divided into and composed of local chapters situated at recognized and approved colleges and universities.

**Section 2.** The chapters of the fraternity shall be designated by the letters of the Greek alphabet.

**Section 3.** All chapters (and members thereof) in the fraternity shall have equal rights.

**Section 4.** Each chapter shall have exclusive jurisdiction in the institution where located over the conduct of all resident fraternity members whether they be members initiated by such chapter or not.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **National Conclave**

**Section 1.** The supreme government of this fraternity shall be vested in a National Conclave, consisting of the National Council and the President of each chapter, except that any chapter in arrears with the National Secretary-Treasurer shall not be entitled to representation at the National Conclave. In case a chapter President shall be unable to attend the National Conclave,



he (or she) shall be replaced (as chapter delegate to the National Conclave) by another chapter officer (or active member) serving as an alternate.

**Section 2.** The National Conclave shall assemble at two-year intervals.

**Section 3.** The duty of the National Conclave shall be to transact all business referring to the fraternity at large. It shall have power to raise money by the levy of assessments upon the respective chapters.

**Section 4.** Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall be used as the guide for the National Conclave in matters of parliamentary procedure.

**Section 5.** A three-fourths vote of the working National Conclave shall be required to transact business.

**Section 6.** The transportation expense of one delegate from each chapter to the National Conclave — and all of the expenses of the National Councillors — shall be paid from the National Council funds.

## ARTICLE V

### National Council

**Section 1.** The National Council shall consist of seven members with terms of six years each. They shall elect from their number a National President, a National Vice-President, and a National Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 1a.** The 1964 National Conclave shall elect three members of the National Council to serve six years. Serving with them shall be (1) the two members of the National Council who have two years remaining of their six year terms and (2) the two members of the National Council who have four years remaining of their six year terms. Their successors shall be elected by the succeeding National Conclaves and shall hold office for six years, or until their successors are elected.

**Section 2.** Vacancies occurring on the National Council between National Conclaves may be filled by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the National Council, except that no person shall be elected to fill such vacancy until one year has elapsed after the termination of their active chapter membership.

**Section 3.** The duties of the National President shall be to act as chief executive officer of the National Council, to preside at meetings of the National Conclave, and to inspect the chapters

between National Conclaves (preferably during the alternate years). A report of each chapter inspection shall be sent to the National Councillors and published in THE PYRAMID. Should conditions of a chapter be found unsatisfactory, it shall be the duty of the National President to bring these conditions before the National Council, which shall take measures for remedying the same.

**Section 4.** The duties of the National Vice-President shall be to perform the duties of the National President in his absence.

**Section 5.** The duties of the National Secretary-Treasurer shall be to keep correct minutes of all meetings of the National Conclave (such minutes to include complete proceedings and discussions), to furnish each chapter with a copy of the National Conclave minutes, to carry on all correspondence, to keep a record of the transactions of the National Council, to have custody of all moneys of the fraternity, and to render to the National Council and the National Conclave (when assembled)—and to publish in THE PYRAMID—a report of all receipts and disbursements of the preceding fiscal period. It shall also be the duty of the National Secretary-Treasurer to issue all badges (keys) and other insignia. He shall also act as business manager and editor of THE PYRAMID.

**Section 6.** An assistant editor of THE PYRAMID may be appointed by the National Council and paid fees and expenses, the amounts thereof to be determined by the National Council and to be paid from National Council funds.

**Section 7.** The National Secretary-Treasurer shall be granted an annual allowance for the purpose of providing facilities for operation of the National Headquarters of the fraternity, the amount to be determined by the National Council and to be paid from National Council funds.

**Section 8.** The duty of the National Councillors shall be to give prompt and careful attention to all matters concerning the welfare of the fraternity which may be brought before them.

**Section 9.** Should any chapter of this fraternity depart from the ideals and principles upon which it was founded, the National Council, after having informed each chapter of the conditions, shall have the power to revoke its charter and recall its by-laws, causing the chapter to cease to exist. Each chapter, upon being so advised, shall immediately submit its vote (on charter revocation) to the National Council. Approval of three-fourths of all active chapters shall be necessary to uphold the decision of



the National Council. If the votes of the chapters fail to ratify the decision of the National Council, said chapter shall be reinstated at once. Should the National Council be upheld, there shall be no appeal from the decision. Should a charter be revoked, full alumni rights and privileges shall be retained by the members of the chapter unless otherwise determined by the next National Conclave. Should a chapter become inactive, its designation and location shall remain unchanged, and its records shall be given into the custody of the National Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 10.** The National Council shall have control of the general policy of the fraternity and shall determine the time and place of holding the National Conclave, except that the Conclave must be held at the home of one of the active chapters.

**Section 11.** The National Archives of the fraternity shall be under the jurisdiction of the National Council. It shall be the duty of the National Secretary-Treasurer to maintain the National Archives and he shall be responsible for their safekeeping.

## ARTICLE VI

### Membership

**Section 1.** Each member of this fraternity shall be designated by a number in the order of the receipt of his (or her) membership record at the National Headquarters.

**Section 2.** Active members shall be those members duly registered for studies (undergraduate or graduate) leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree in an engineering field. All other members are alumni members.

**Section 3.** In order to be eligible for active membership in this fraternity, a candidate shall be:

- A. Enrolled as an undergraduate (working toward a degree) in a curriculum approved by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development at an institution where there is a chapter of Sigma Tau;
- B. A person (1) who has become a junior (as shown by the records of the institution), or (2) in special cases (with the approval of the National Council), who has completed seventy (70) semester hours or the equivalent thereof;  
**Provided,** any chapter, by a four-fifths vote of its members, may add further restrictions to this membership requirement; and

C. Active membership may be granted by an active chapter to a student pursuing a higher degree in engineering provided the student has attended the institution for at least one term (or semester, as the case may be) and has maintained a scholarship average equal to or greater than the minimum requirement for initiation into the active chapter during that particular term.

**Section 4.** In conformity with the object of this fraternity, the selection of active members shall be based upon scholarship, practicality, and sociability, the three requirements of a successful engineer.

In scholarship, the candidate shall rank either among the upper one-third of the college of engineering or among the upper one-third of the department in which the candidate is enrolled.

Practicality is to be a measure of the capability of the student to apply his engineering knowledge in the solution of practical problems.

Sociability shall be a measure of the public-spiritedness of the student.

**Section 5.** Students transferring from other institutions with junior or senior or graduate standing shall not be considered eligible for membership until they have completed at least one term of regular work and shall have maintained during that time a standard of scholarship which meets the requirements of the institution in which they are registered. In order for a transfer student to be ranked in a particular institution he must have attended at least one term from which grades can be computed and evaluated in accordance with the procedures of the local chapter at that institution.

**Section 6.** Any active member may propose an eligible person for membership, the proposal to lay over at least one week before being acted upon.

**Section 7.** Candidates for membership must be approved by at least one Sigma Tau member of the engineering faculty (other than the Chapter Advisor).

**Section 8.** In order for a candidate to be elected to membership in this fraternity, no more than one dissenting vote shall be cast by the active members present, the ballot on same being secret.

**Section 9.** The status of alumni membership in this fraternity may be granted by an active chapter (a) to anyone holding

a position on the engineering faculty; and (b) to any prominent practicing engineer upon unanimous approval by the National Council.

**Section 10.** Alumni members shall not have the privilege of voting in any active chapter meeting unless such privilege is proffered by the active membership.

**Section 11.** Any prominent practicing engineer may be proposed for alumni membership by any alumni member, but only after his (or her) record of training and professional experience has been reviewed and approved by five alumni members who are not members of the National Council. The proposal shall be unanimously approved by the National Council; and the active chapter, to which the National Council submits (assigns) the proposal, shall conduct the election (in regular form) in respect to the candidate.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Expulsion of Members**

**Section 1.** An active member may be expelled by the chapter of which he is a member by a four-fifths vote (of the active members of the chapter) upon charges signed by four active members, after a thorough investigation of the charges has been made and the member so charged has been granted an impartial hearing.

**Section 2.** An alumnus member may be expelled by the National Council upon charges signed by four alumni members, after a thorough investigation of the charges has been made and the member so charged has been granted an impartial hearing.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Chapter Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of each chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Chapter Advisor.

**Section 2.** The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the chapter, and to order written reports made (as required) to the National Council.

**Section 3.** The duties of the Vice-President shall be to preside in the absence of the President, to keep himself posted on

the physical and moral and intellectual welfare of the members, and to make special reports to the chapter in open meeting (when in his opinion it becomes necessary).

**Section 4.** The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep correct minutes of all meetings of the chapter, to carry on all chapter correspondence, to receive all communications addressed to the chapter, and to maintain a file of all reports of officers.

**Section 5.** The duties of the Treasurer shall be to have custody of all moneys of the chapter, to keep account of all receipts and disbursements, to make all remittances when so ordered by the chapter, and to render an itemized written financial report twice during the school year and a verbal report at each meeting.

**Section 6.** The duties of the Historian shall be to keep a correct card index record of the latest known addresses of all members of the chapter and to carry on such correspondence as may be necessary concerning same with the National Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 7.** Each chapter shall elect a Chapter Advisor, who may be replaced at a regular election of officers at the discretion of the chapter. The Chapter Advisor shall be a member of the engineering faculty who is an alumnus member of Sigma Tau. His duties shall be to offer helpful and judicious advice whenever he sees fit or is called upon to do so.

**Section 8.** An election of chapter officers shall be held each year before the first of April, the exact date to be determined by the by-laws of the chapter. Exceptions to this date (April first) can be made in special cases with specific approval of the National Council. Officers shall assume their duties at the next regular meeting following election.

**Section 9.** The election of all chapter officers shall be by secret ballot. A majority of the votes cast by secret ballot shall elect the candidate to office. In case candidates receive the same number of votes, the balloting shall be repeated until the tie is broken.

## ARTICLE IX

### Chapter By-Laws

**Section 1.** Any chapter of this fraternity may make by-laws for its government which do not conflict with this Constitution. Such chapter by-laws shall be submitted to the National Council for ratification.



## ARTICLE X

### New Chapters

**Section 1.** Chapters of Sigma Tau shall be established only upon petition in writing of not less than five eligible students of a recognized and approved\* university or college. The character and qualifications of such petitioners must be approved by at least three engineering professors of that institution.

\* "We recommend that the National Council continue in its present interpretation of the word 'approved' as meaning accreditation by the Engineers' Council for Professional Development." — Adoption of the 1958 National Conclave.

**Section 2.** The petition shall contain the following: (a) Name and location of institution; (b) Qualifications for admission to the freshman class; (c) Course of study and requirements for graduation; (d) Names of other honorary engineering fraternities, if any; (e) Signatures of petitioners with year of graduation; and (f) Signatures of faculty members approving petition.

**Section 3.** The fee for a national charter shall be Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00), payable before installation.

**Section 4.** A unanimous vote of the National Council with a three-fourths vote of the active chapters, or a four-fifths vote of the National Conclave, shall be required to grant a charter.

## ARTICLE XI

### General Chapter

**Section 1.** A general chapter—known as the Omega Alpha Chapter—is authorized and instituted. It shall have as its officers the national officers of Sigma Tau. The officers of the general chapter shall have authority to elect to membership eligible men and women whose election does not otherwise come within the prescribed jurisdiction of the active chapters.

## ARTICLE XII

### Fraternity Publication

**Section 1.** The name of the fraternity publication shall be THE PYRAMID and it shall be published two times annually in Spring-Summer and Fall-Winter issues.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **Fraternity Policy**

**Section 1.** It shall be the aim of this fraternity not only to recognize the student engineer, but also to encourage wherever possible any move which will advance the best interests of engineering education.

**Section 2.** It shall be the policy of this fraternity to refrain from all participation in college politics, and no member shall expect support from this fraternity in any candidacy for office in any college organization or place of honor because of membership in the fraternity.

**Section 3.** This fraternity does not sanction the occupation of a chapter house which is used as a rooming house by the members.

**Section 4.** It is the obligation of active members of this fraternity to attend all chapter functions.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **Amendment of Constitution**

**Section 1.** This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the National Conclave, or by a three-fourths vote of the active chapters and the National Councillors. In the latter case, the amendments being proposed shall be considered in a regular chapter meeting. A statement of the vote (certified to by the officers of the chapter) shall be forwarded to the National Council.



# By-Laws of the Sigma Tau Fraternity

*As Amended by the National Conclave at  
Lawrence, Kansas, on March 6-8, 1967*

## ARTICLE I

### Insignia

**Section 1.** The key shall be the official badge of the fraternity.

**Section 2.** The key design is to be used only on the key, on the plaque, on the charter, and on insignia used for and during chapter functions.

**Section 3.** The fraternity does not sanction a jeweled key.

**Section 4.** The official pledge badge of the fraternity shall be either a Yale blue and white ribbon or a button designed to embody the pyramid and rail section.

**Section 5.** A plaque embodying the design of the key is established as an official insignia of the fraternity, and the National Council is given the authority to regulate its manufacture in whatever manner is necessary to ensure proper control of its distribution and use.

**Section 6.** The official crest of the fraternity shall be a shield surmounted by a sphinx. On the shield shall be placed an open book, a gear, clasped hands, and a pyramid and rail section.

**Section 7.** The official seal of the fraternity shall contain the following inscription: "Sigma Tau Fraternity. Founded 1904, University of Nebraska."

**Section 8.** The membership certificate ("shingle") shall be 7½ by 10 inches in size. Across the top shall be the words "Sigma Tau"; below this shall be the crest. The notation "Confers the honor of membership upon" shall appear below the crest. Then, in order, shall come the name of the member, chapter and institution, date of initiation, seal of the fraternity, and signatures of the National President, National Vice-President, and National Secretary-Treasurer. All letters, with the exception of those on

the engraved crest and the signatures, shall be in Old English and black ink shall be used.

**Section 9.** The medal of the fraternity (bronze, silver, and gold) shall depict "Engineering Education" withdrawing the curtain of "Ignorance" and showing the "Products of the Engineer's Training." The medal is to be presented annually by each chapter to one or more undergraduate students, preferably freshmen, for scholarship. It may also be presented by the various chapters to other persons in recognition of some act furthering Engineering Education.

**Section 10.** The stationery of the fraternity is to be uniform in size, character, and general design; and the ink used is to be blue in color to harmonize with the colors of the fraternity. The paper is to be white and shall be 8½ by 11 inches in size.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **National Conclave**

**Section 1.** The standing committees of the National Conclave, appointed by the National President, shall be as follows:

- A. Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. Ritual and Insignia.
- C. Alumni Members.
- D. New Chapters.
- E. Publications.
- F. Chapter and National Finances.
- G. Special Questions.
- H. Resolutions.
- I. Nominations.

**Section 2.** Delegates shall be notified of their committee appointments prior to the holding of the National Conclave.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Publications**

**Section 1.** The ex-officio staff of THE PYRAMID shall consist of the members of the National Council.

**Section 2.** The subscription price for THE PYRAMID shall be One Dollar and Fifty Cents (\$1.50) a year.

**Section 3.** Every active member shall be required, at the time of his initiation, to subscribe to THE PYRAMID for two years from the date of his initiation.

**Section 4.** All revisions in the Constitution and By-Laws shall be published in THE PYRAMID, the times of publication being left to the discretion of the Editor.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Chapters**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall have a standing committee whose duty shall be to devise plans, and ways and means, whereby the fraternity and institution may cooperate to the best advantage.

**Section 2.** The chapter fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

**Section 3.** Chapter reports shall be made as prescribed by the National Council.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Initiation Procedures**

**Section 1.** All candidates for initiation into active membership are required to secure the signatures of a representative number of active and alumni members of Sigma Tau on the local campus before initiation, the number to be determined by the local chapter.

**Section 2.** There shall not be included in the initiation ceremony or pre-initiation activities of any chapter any action which, in the opinion of the faculty and student body, does not enhance the standards of the fraternity.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Chapter Meetings**

**Section 1.** The first meeting of each school year shall take place within one month from the beginning of the school year, and meetings shall be held as often as the local chapter deems necessary, but at least four times a year (during the school year).

**Section 2.** Special meetings may be called by the President or by four active members. Due notice of such special meetings shall be given to all active members.

**Section 3.** In all meetings for (a) the election of officers, (b) the election of new members, (c) consideration of petitions for new chapters, and (d) consideration of proposed changes in the chapter by-laws, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the active members. A minimum quorum requirement for other chapter meetings shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of the active members. In those schools where the officially recognized cooperative system is employed, the necessary quorum shall be confined to members at the time pursuing studies at the seat of the university.

**Section 4.** Chapter meetings shall ordinarily be held within closed doors. By unanimous consent it may be decided to hold an open meeting for a specific worthy cause. At such open or public meeting all secret work shall be omitted.

## ARTICLE VII

### Chapter Fees and National Council Fees

**Section 1.** The local chapter initiation fee for active members shall not exceed \$35.00. Of this amount, the National Council shall receive \$18.50 for each initiate which includes the cost of THE PYRAMID subscription (two years), the Sigma Tau key and tax thereon, the membership certificate, and incidental expenses such as the National Conclave expense, membership records expense, and general service expense.  
*(Effective June 1, 1967)*

**Section 2.** The total amount to be collected from the candidate before initiation shall be fixed at the time of the election of officers in each year, and said amount shall stand for one year.

**Section 3.** The initiation fee is to be paid before the candidate is initiated. Any chapter violating this section may be fined Five Dollars (\$5.00) by the National Council for each member so initiated.

# Roll of Chapters

ALPHA CHAPTER	Chartered February 22, 1904 <i>University of Nebraska</i> Lincoln, Nebraska
(BETA CHAPTER)	(Chartered November 26, 1907) (Charter Withdrawn March 26, 1912) <i>State University of Iowa</i> Iowa City, Iowa
GAMMA CHAPTER	Chartered February 22, 1911 <i>University of Pennsylvania</i> Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
(DELTA CHAPTER)	(Chartered April 12, 1912) (Charter Withdrawn April 22, 1916) <i>University of South Dakota</i> Vermillion, South Dakota
DELTA CHAPTER	Chartered May 17, 1941 <i>South Dakota State University</i> Brookings, South Dakota
EPSILON CHAPTER	Chartered May 16, 1912 <i>Kansas State University of Agriculture and Applied Science</i> Manhattan, Kansas
ZETA CHAPTER	Chartered April 23, 1913 <i>Oregon State University</i> Corvallis, Oregon
ETA CHAPTER	Chartered May 16, 1913 <i>Washington State University</i> Pullman, Washington
THETA CHAPTER	Chartered February 27, 1914 <i>University of Illinois</i> Urbana, Illinois
IOTA CHAPTER	Chartered June 1, 1914 <i>University of Colorado</i> Boulder, Colorado
KAPPA CHAPTER	Chartered May 1, 1915 <i>The Pennsylvania State University</i> University Park, Pennsylvania
LAMBDA CHAPTER	Chartered May 22, 1915 <i>University of Kansas</i> Lawrence, Kansas
MU CHAPTER	Chartered May 13, 1916 <i>University of Oklahoma</i> Norman, Oklahoma



NU CHAPTER	<i>Swarthmore College</i> Swarthmore, Pennsylvania	Chartered October 20, 1916
XI CHAPTER	<i>The George Washington University</i> Washington, D. C.	Chartered April 18, 1921
OMICRON CHAPTER	<i>University of Louisville</i> Louisville, Kentucky	Chartered December 21, 1935
PI CHAPTER	<i>University of North Dakota</i> Grand Forks, North Dakota	Chartered April 8, 1922
RHO CHAPTER	<i>University of Idaho</i> Moscow, Idaho	Chartered May 22, 1922
SIGMA CHAPTER	<i>Oklahoma State University of Agriculture and Applied Science</i> Stillwater, Oklahoma	Chartered April 16, 1923
TAU CHAPTER	<i>South Dakota School of Mines and Technology</i> Rapid City, South Dakota	Chartered April 26, 1923
UPSILON CHAPTER	<i>University of Florida</i> Gainesville, Florida	Chartered December 3, 1923
PHI CHAPTER	<i>The University of Akron</i> Akron, Ohio	Chartered December 13, 1924
CHI CHAPTER	<i>University of New Mexico</i> Albuquerque, New Mexico	Chartered December 22, 1928
PSI CHAPTER	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i> Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Chartered May 31, 1930
OMEGA CHAPTER	<i>The University of Wyoming</i> Laramie, Wyoming	Chartered January 13, 1932
ALPHA ALPHA CHAPTER	<i>Colorado State University</i> Fort Collins, Colorado	Chartered May 14, 1936



ALPHA BETA CHAPTER.....Chartered October 17, 1942  
*Southern Methodist University*  
Dallas, Texas

ALPHA GAMMA CHAPTER.....Chartered May 22, 1949  
*New Mexico State University of Agriculture, Engineering, and Science*  
University Park, New Mexico

ALPHA DELTA CHAPTER.....Chartered February 10, 1951  
*Utah State University of Agriculture and Applied Sciences*  
Logan, Utah

ALPHA EPSILON CHAPTER.....Chartered May 22, 1952  
*University of Nevada*  
Reno, Nevada

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER.....Chartered May 20, 1952  
*William M. Rice University*  
Houston, Texas

ALPHA ETA CHAPTER.....Chartered April 22, 1956  
*Texas College of Arts and Industries*  
Kingsville, Texas

ALPHA THETA CHAPTER.....Chartered April 23, 1956  
*Youngstown University*  
Youngstown, Ohio

ALPHA IOTA CHAPTER.....Chartered February 1, 1958  
*Bradley University*  
Peoria, Illinois

ALPHA KAPPA CHAPTER.....Chartered April 19, 1966  
*Fresno State College*  
Fresno, California

OMEGA ALPHA CHAPTER (*General Chapter*).....Authorized November 12, 1954  
*National Headquarters*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

# Sigma Tau

## *More Than Sixty Years of Service to Engineering*

By MORRIS HENRY COOK\* (Theta '21)

As the very name implies, the purpose of an Engineering Honor Society is, first of all, the recognition of outstanding achievement or ability in a specific academic field or profession. In some instances, this recognition may be no more than a name on an official roll of honor. In other cases, however, the organization is a closely unified entity and maintains, as in the case of Sigma Tau, a mutually practical relationship with both the college and the professional field of engineering.

The unique success of Sigma Tau must be ascribed not only to its insistence on fine scholarship and its sponsoring of high personal and professional ideals, but also to its realistic meaning for the student and the practicing engineer. Affiliation with Sigma Tau is not an empty honor, since its paramount aim has always been to encourage those qualities, activities and relationships which go to make up the successful engineer and the balanced development of the individual. Sigma Tau's interest in and concern for its members does not cease with their graduation. Membership means the recognition of accomplishment and work well done, and this recognition attaches itself to the individual throughout his professional life.

Sigma Tau was founded February 22, 1904, when a group of upperclassmen of the Engineering College of the University of Nebraska held a banquet and announced the organization of a new honor society in engineering. This formal introduction, however, was not the real beginning; it represented the culmination of preparations extending over a period of more than a year. During this preliminary period the charter members had been meeting frequently discussing objectives, outlining principles and ideals, and perfecting the mechanism of the organization.

The motives that guided the founders sprang from a general desire to be of service to engineering education in the institution where the society was established. The initial study of the problem was carried on by a group of civil engineering students, who, after two or three meetings in the Spring of 1903, agreed to

\*Member of National Council — 1928-1938, 1952 to date.

Vice President — 1956-1960.

President — 1960-1962.

broach the matter to other engineers, and to invite the advice of certain members of the faculty. Discussions leading to the formation of the society assumed a definite form in the Fall of 1903 when a group of fourteen men instituted a series of weekly meetings in which details of organization were worked out.

The men who organized Sigma Tau did not at that time realize that within a comparatively few years it would attain nationwide scope and recognition. It is to their credit that plans originally made for a local society should be so well conceived that they could serve, almost without change, as a basis for a national organization. The men composing the first chapter were L. W. Chase, L. A. Cutshall, J. B. Davidson, H. R. Edwards, J. A. Green, Verne Hedge, Russell Harris, J. C. Stevens, E. L. Thomas, O. H. Timmerman, Norton Ware, and R. H. White.

Among the most active supporters of Sigma Tau, when it was only an "idea", were Dr. O. V. P. Stout, then Dean of the College of Engineering, and Dr. Charles Russ Richards, then Professor of Mechanical Engineering and later President of Lehigh University. In effect, these men played the role of godparents to Alpha, the mother chapter, and hence, indirectly, to the whole of Sigma Tau. Their priceless contribution must be measured in terms of sympathetic interest, time and advice freely given, ideals expressed and integrity exemplified. In short, what these men stood for in the field of engineering had much to do with defining the character finally assumed by Sigma Tau.

The ritual prepared by Dr. J. C. Stevens and the pin design of Dr. J. B. Davidson were adopted. The preparation of the constitution involved considerable discussion on the subjects of membership and the relation to other fraternities and literary societies. The ideals of the society are, as far as the founders were able to determine, the ideals of engineering education. The immediate objectives were the recognition of personal attainments on the part of engineering students, the provision for a working organization for the promotion of the interests of the engineering college, and the encouragement of fellowship among congenial colleagues in training for the engineering profession.

Careful consideration was given to the selection of symbols in order that they might indicate the significant aims of the organization.

The Pyramid symbolizes stability and calls attention to the permanence of the fraternity. The pyramids of the ancients are

among the few great works of man that have successfully withstood the adversities of thousands of years. The adoption of the Pyramid is evidence that the founders of Sigma Tau believed that their work was so conceived and so executed as to insure permanence and as long as those original plans are maintained, there is every reason to believe that their faith was justified.

The Sphinx typifies silence, as opposed to self-advertisement. This is not indicative of the secret nature of the fraternity but rather as a notice to all that Sigma Tau allows actions rather than words to justify its existence. This implies the obligation of every member to refrain from the employment of the fraternity as a means for self-glorification, but rather to so conduct himself that he will reflect honor on the organization by his accomplishments and advancement in the engineering profession.

The Rail Section stands for progress. The history of civilization has been one of constantly advancing frontiers, of the opening of new fields and new opportunities, and of the onward march of science and learning. Within recent years one of the greatest factors in the advancement of civilization has been the rapid improvement in means of transportation. The railroad in particular unified America. It was responsible in large measure for the upbuilding of the West and it symbolizes that pioneering spirit that continually reaches into the unknown to add to our store of knowledge.

In determining the basis of eligibility to membership, those qualities which best give promise of a successful career were selected. In making this selection the founders were aided by the results of an investigation which was made about that time by Dr. Frederick W. Taylor, an eminent mechanical engineer. Dr. Taylor, in summarizing the opinions of a large number of employers, found that, given good health, employers asked first for character, second for judgment, and third for technical training. The relation between these qualities and the three qualifications for Sigma Tau membership, viz. scholarship, practicality, and sociability, is apparent. Time has strengthened our faith in the propriety of these qualifications.

During the early years of Sigma Tau, a man must have had some practical experience in the engineering field in order to have been considered as a candidate for membership. As engineering enrollment increased this requirement was eliminated to permit the initiation of men who, although they may have had



no experience, were, in the judgment of their associates, possessed of those qualities which make for success in the engineering profession.

In the years immediately following the Society's establishment national expansion was discouraged. These years were spent in the strengthening of Alpha Chapter. Beta was established in 1907 at the University of Iowa, and Gamma at the University of Pennsylvania in 1911. In 1912, the first National Council was elected. At that time Alpha Chapter relinquished the duties of the national organization. Since 1912, the history has been one of constant expansion.

At the first National Conclave, held in Lincoln, Nebraska, April 17 and 18, 1914, provision was made for a national publication, **The Pyramid**. Up to that time annual letters were issued by each chapter. **The Pyramid**, published two times a year, contains chapter news and articles of interest to the members.

The National Council now consists of seven members—President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and four Counsellors. The affairs of the national organization are administered by the National Council, supplementing the action of the biennial National Conclave, which consists of the Members of the National Council and one Delegate from each Chapter.

The membership of Sigma Tau is selected from those men who rank in scholarship among the upper one-third of the juniors and seniors of an accredited engineering school. Selection of members from those men who qualify scholastically is made on the further basis of practicality and sociability. The approval of at least one member of the engineering faculty is required.

Having established these qualities as the basis of selection for membership, the next consideration is the method of election. The procedure established is intended to safeguard the quality of the membership. The result has been that during the many years since the society's inception the quality of the membership has been high. Membership may be granted to members of an engineering faculty upon nomination and election by a Chapter and to prominent practicing engineers upon nomination by a Chapter and the unanimous approval of the National Council.

In its efforts toward recognition of the ideal in engineering students, Sigma Tau has made a contribution to the advance-

ment of engineering education. By providing for the recognition of individual achievement it encourages engineering progress, since progress comes largely by following the advance of outstanding individuals. More specifically, in its effort to encourage and aid worthy students, Sigma Tau offers Fellowships to deserving members upon their graduation from engineering college. The Fellowship can be used to finance, in part, a year of post-graduate study at any reputable university of the student's choosing. A special group of five men administers the Fellowship system, and it is the duty of this group to see that the grants go to those Sigma Taus whose sound scholarship and personal characteristics best qualify them for the award.

As a further mark of distinction and incentive to excellence in scholarship, each chapter of Sigma Tau is authorized to bestow, at the end of the school term, a medal upon the engineering student, preferably a sophomore, who has attained the highest grades in his engineering courses during his freshman year. However, it is not enough to stop with the recognition of individuals, since such a practice tends to isolate a group from the main body of students. The development of leadership carries with it the principle of service and the measure of its service is the true index of the worth of the organization.

The list of Sigma Tau alumni who have advanced to positions of great responsibility is an imposing one—most every phase of American industry, education, and government has had a member of Sigma Tau in a top executive position. It is, however, beyond the scope of this thesis to include the names of those who have gained such distinction.

Finally, Sigma Tau offers an opportunity for the formation and development of professional friendships. In order that engineers may carry out their professional missions properly it is imperative that they avail themselves of the contributions of others for the expansion and the tempering of their own ideas. Friendships resulting from fraternal ties are potent influences in the attainment of success.

The strength of the society does not necessarily come from the national organization, but rather from the collective character and accomplishment of the individual chapters. The function of the national officers is primarily that of passing on to the chapters the experience of the past and providing the machinery for the more effective accomplishment of nation-wide results.



Sigma Tau has initiated some 37,500 members. A considerable number of student members have received material assistance from the fraternity through fellowships and grants-in-aid. Continuance of this type of assistance is assured through the vigorous general alumni support of the program carried on by the Sigma Tau Foundation.

Sigma Tau Foundation, Inc. is incorporated under the laws of the State of Nebraska, and is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Contributions made to the Foundation are deductible by the donors in computing taxable income as provided by Section 170 of the 1954 Code.

With the rapidly changing personnel of local chapters, some stabilizing influence seemed advisable to insure the maintenance of a continuity of purpose and accomplishment. Therefore, the 1926 Conclave established the Chapter Advisor System to provide a link between the successive chapter groups. The Chapter Advisor is an alumnus faculty member who advises and assists the active members in maintaining fraternity standards and policies. He is an important factor in the preservation of that chapter individuality which is one of the characteristics of Sigma Tau. He is the guiding hand in matters of a general nature. His duty is to prevent rather than correct mistakes, and his capacity is advisory rather than executive. The successful operation of the Chapter Advisor System indicates the wisdom of its establishment.

Sigma Tau is not, and was never intended to be, a political organization. The Constitution specifically prohibits the employment of the society as a vehicle for the advancement of any individual in campus politics. The society does not sanction the occupation of a chapter house because such a practice is likely to defeat the purposes of the organization (since the selection of members might be influenced by social qualities to the exclusion of more important considerations).

As a result of the careful application of those principles which were laid down by the founders, Sigma Tau has grown through the years to an acknowledged position of national prominence. Chapters have been added only when the petitioning bodies have proven themselves worthy of shouldering the responsibilities attendant on the operation of a strong chapter. The United States, offering almost unlimited possibilities for engineering development, also presents magnificent opportunities for the

growth of a widespread and efficient system of engineering education. In such a field, Sigma Tau can be expected to demonstrate to best advantage its full possibilities as an engineering honor society.



## Insignia and Medals of the Sigma Tau Fraternity

The Constitution requires that all fraternity insignia must be purchased through the *National Secretary-Treasurer*.

Key (Replacement) .....	\$ 7.00
Recognition Button .....	1.60
Silver Ring (Unofficial) .....	18.00
Gold Ring (Unofficial) .....	31.00
Bronze Award Medal (including display case) .....	5.40
Silver Award Medal (including display case) .....	6.25
Gold Award Medal (including display case) .....	12.50

All prices are subject to change without notice.

# Roster of National Officers

## 1912 - 1914

Grand President	Norton Ware	Alpha	'08
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	L. W. Chase	Alpha	'04
Grand Councillor	W. J. Wohlenberg	Alpha	'10
Grand Councillor	George L. Sullivan	Alpha	'08
Grand Councillor	A. D. Stancliff	Alpha	'10

## 1914 - 1916

Grand President	L. W. Chase	Alpha	'04
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	F. A. Wirt	Alpha	'13
Grand Historian	M. Y. Neely	Gamma	'13
Grand Councillor	W. J. Wohlenberg	Alpha	'10
Grand Councillor	George L. Sullivan	Alpha	'08

## 1916 - 1918

Grand President	W. J. Wohlenberg	Alpha	'10
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	F. A. Wirt	Alpha	'13
Grand Historian	H. H. Fenton	Epsilon	'12
Grand Councillor	M. Y. Neely	Gamma	'13
Grand Councillor	H. Odeen	Zeta	'14

## 1918 - 1920

Grand President	W. J. Wohlenberg	Alpha	'10
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	Stanley A. Smith	Epsilon	'12
Grand Historian	H. H. Fenton	Epsilon	'12
Grand Councillor	M. Y. Neely	Gamma	'13
Grand Councillor	H. Odeen	Zeta	'14

## 1920 - 1922

Grand President	W. J. Wohlenberg	Alpha	'10
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	Stanley A. Smith	Epsilon	'12
Grand Historian	F. A. Wirt	Alpha	'13
Grand Councillor	H. H. Fenton	Epsilon	'12
Grand Councillor	Albert N. Gonsior	Theta	'14

## 1922 - 1924

Grand President	W. J. Wohlenberg	Alpha	'10
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	Stanley A. Smith	Epsilon	'12
Grand Historian	Albert N. Gonsior	Theta	'14
Grand Councillor	L. W. W. Morrow	Mu*	
Grand Councillor	Henry W. Fish	Zeta	'21

\*Alumnus (Initiated December 9, 1916)

### 1924 - 1926

Grand President	J. B. Davidson	Alpha	'04
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
Grand Historian	C. G. Roush	Mu	'23
Grand Councillor	L. W. W. Morrow	Mu*	
Grand Councillor	Henry W. Fish	Zeta	'21

\*Alumnus (Initiated December 9, 1916)

### 1926 - 1928

Grand President	J. B. Davidson	Alpha	'04
Grand Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
Grand Historian	C. G. Roush	Mu	'23
Grand Councillor	Henry W. Fish	Zeta	'21
Grand Councillor	E. D. Schive	Kappa	'23

### 1928 - 1932

National President	J. C. Stevens	Alpha	'06
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
National Historian	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Councillor	Henry W. Fish	Zeta	'21
National Councillor	E. D. Schive	Kappa	'23

### 1932 - 1934

National President	Verne Hedge	Alpha	'03
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
National Historian	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Councillor	Henry W. Fish	Zeta	'21
National Councillor	E. D. Schive	Kappa	'23

### 1934 - 1938

National President	Verne Hedge	Alpha	'03
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
National Historian	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Councillor	Wm. F. Roeser	Xi	'24
National Councillor	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26

### 1938 - 1940

National President	John C. Page	Alpha	'08
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
National Historian	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	Wm. F. Roeser	Xi	'24
National Councillor	Verne Hedge	Alpha	'03

### 1940 - 1948

National President	J. H. Belknap	Zeta	'12
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
National Historian	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	Wm. F. Roeser	Xi	'24
National Councillor	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22

### 1948 - 1952

National President	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Vice-President	Wm. F. Roeser	Xi	'24
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
National Councillor	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Councillor	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28

### 1952 - 1956

National President	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Vice-President	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren	Alpha	'21
National Councillor	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28
National Councillor	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21

### 1956 - 1958

National President	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Vice-President	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Secretary-Treasurer	C. A. Sjogren (a)	Alpha	'21
National Secretary-Treasurer	Clarel B. Mapes (b)	Mu	'22
National Councillor	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28
National Councillor	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	T. DeWitt Carr	Lambda*	

\* Alumnus (Initiated May 4, 1948)

(a) Deceased (March 16, 1958)

(b) Acting (Beginning March 17, 1958)

### 1958 - 1960

National President	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Vice-President	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Secretary-Treasurer	Clarel B. Mapes (a)	Mu	'22
National Councillor	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28
National Councillor	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	T. DeWitt Carr	Lambda*	
National Councillor	Verne Hedge	Alpha	'03

\* Alumnus (Initiated May 4, 1948)

(a) Acting (Beginning March 17, 1958)



## 1960 - 1962

National President	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Vice-President	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28
National Secretary-Treasurer	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Councillor	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	T. DeWitt Carr	Lambda*	
National Councillor	George W. Forman	Lambda**	

\*Alumnus (Initiated May 4, 1948)

\*\*Alumnus (Initiated December 12, 1956)

## 1962 - 1964

National President	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28
National Vice-President	George W. Forman	Lambda*	
National Secretary-Treasurer	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Councillor	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Councillor	Chas. A. Wagner	Iota**	

\*Alumnus (Initiated December 12, 1956)

\*\*Alumnus (Initiated August 13, 1944)

## 1964 - 1967

National President	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28
National Vice-President	George W. Forman	Lambda*	
National Secretary-Treasurer	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Councillor	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Councillor	Chas. A. Wagner	Iota**	
National Councillor	Herbert H. Bartel, Jr.	Alpha Beta***	

\*Alumnus (Initiated December 12, 1956)

\*\*Alumnus (Initiated August 13, 1944)

\*\*\*Alumnus (Initiated May 5, 1954)

## 1967 - 1969

National President	George W. Forman	Lambda*	
National Vice-President	(a) Chas. A. Wagner	Iota**	
National Vice-President	(b) Herbert H. Bartel, Jr.	Alpha Beta***	
National Secretary-Treasurer	Clarel B. Mapes	Mu	'22
National Councillor	C. W. Leihy	Zeta	'26
National Councillor	M. H. Cook	Theta	'21
National Councillor	R. P. Moser	Zeta	'28
National Councillor	(Vacant — June 1, 1967)		

\*Alumnus (Initiated December 12, 1956)

\*\*Alumnus (Initiated August 13, 1944)

\*\*\*Alumnus (Initiated May 5, 1954)

(a) Deceased (May 20, 1967)

(b) Elected (May 29, 1967)



